

REMARKS

Claims 2, 7, 8 and 10-18 are now pending in the application. Applicants have cancelled Claims 1, 3-6 and 9. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,306,562) in view of Kamiya et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,664,860). Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,306,562) in view of Kamiya et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,664,860) and further in view of Ozaki et al. (JP 57-188664). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants have cancelled Claims 1, 3-6 and 9, and therefore renders this rejection moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 2, 7 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant(s) have amended claims 2, 7 and 10 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 2, 7 and 10 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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